

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8022

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CVIS,CASC, CSCE, CGEN, PFOR, UR

SUBJ: CONSULAR REVIEW TALKS - THIRD WORKING SESSION

REF: MOSCOW 13232; LENINGRAD 1371

1. THIRD WORKING SESSION OF CONSULAR REVIEW TALKS TOOD PLACE  
AUG 25 AT MFA RECEPTION HALL. US PARTICIPANTS WERE COUNSELOR FOR  
CONSULAR AFFAIRS AND CONSUL SMITH WHILE ACTING CHIEF OF CONSULAR  
ADMINISTRATION REZNICHENKO HEADED SEVEN-MEMBER SOVIET GROUP  
NAMED IN PARA ONE MOSCOW 13077.

2. US SIDE RAISED AGENDA ITEMS ON CONTACT WITH AMERICAN CITIZENS  
TEMPORARILY DETAINED AND ACCESS OF SOVIET PUBLIC TO US EMBASSY  
AND CONSULATE GENERAL. DRAWING ON DEPARTMENT BRIEFING PAPER,  
CONSOFFS CITED TWO SPECIFIC CASES OF DETENTION AS ILLUSTRATIVE OF  
PROBLE. SOVIET SIDE ATTEMPTED FIRST DRAW DISTINCTION BETWEEN  
QUESTIONING AND DETENTION, ARGUING THAT BRIEF QUESTIONING DID NOT  
NECESSARILY REQUIRE CONTACT WITH EMBASSY, THEN CITED TECHNICAL  
COMMUNICATION PROBLEMS AS FREQUENT REASON FOE DELAYS IN TELEPHONE  
CONTACT. COUNSELOR REPLIED US REQUEST IS THAT AMERICAN CITIZENS  
WHO ARE DENIED FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT BY POLICE, CUSTOMS OR OTHER  
OFFICIALS AND WHETHER IN THEIR HOTE ROOM, CUSTOMS CLEARANCE,  
RAILROAD STATION, ETC. BE PERMITTED TO CONTACT EMBASSY OR CONSULATE  
GENERAL. ALTHOUGH REZNICHENKO CLAIMED THAT THIS WAS ALREADY THE  
PRACTICE, HE AGREED TO HAVE THE MATTER LOOKED INTO.

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3. CONSOFFS THEN RAISED PROBLEM OF ACCESS OF SOVIET PUBLIC TO EMBASSY. REZNICHENKO REPLIED CITING VIENNA CONVENTION OBLIGATION TO PROTECT EMBASSY AND ALLUDED TO SEOVLET SECURITY PROBLEM IN US. COUNSELOR STATED US SIDE WAS GRATEFUL FOR PROTECTION BUT POINTED OUT THAT MILITIA FREQUENTLY EXCEED REQUIREMENTS OF PROTECTION, REFUSING ADMITTANCE TO SOVIET CITIZENS IN SOME CASES EVEN AFTER US CONSOFFS HAVE GONE OUTSIDE AND REQUESTED THAT THEY BE ADMITTED. HE NOTED IT IS

IN INTEREST OF BOTH SIDES TO AVOID UNPLEASANT ACCESS INCIDENTS IN FRONT

OF THE EMBASSY, PARTICULARLY SINCE THERE IS POSSIBILITY THAT JOURNALISTS MIGHT BE ON HAND. REZNICHENKO ALLEGED THAT CORRESPONDENTS "ALWAYS" SEEM TO KNOW ABOUT SUCH INCIDENTS BEFORE THEY OCCUR, CONSOFFS REPLIED THAT IN FACT CORRESPONDENTS ONLY OCCASIONALLY HAPPEN TO BE AROUND WHEN THERE ARE SUCH SCENES, BUT THIS IS REASON ENOUGH TO TRY TO PREVENT SUCH INCIDENTS FROM OCCURRING. SOVIETS AGREED TO STUDY THIS PROBLEM ALSO.

4. SOVIET SIDE THEN RAISED TWO ITEMS: VISAS IN SOVIET DIPLOMATIC PASSPORTS AND X-RAY CHECKS WHICH DIPLOMATIC COURIERS ARE REQUIRED TO UNDERGO IN SANFRANCISCO. ON FIRST ITEM, SOVIET SIDE'S VIEW IS FIRST, THAT ISSUANCE OF DIPLOMATIC PASSPORT IS AN INTERNAL MATTER OF ISSUING STATE AND SECOND THAT IF STATE ISSUES DIPLOMATIC PASSPORT, OTHER STATES SHOULD RECOGNIZE IT BY ISSUING DIPLOMATIC VISAS TO HOLDERS. SOVIETS POINTED OUT THIS ALREADY THEIR PRACTICE. REZNICHENKO CITED REFUSAL USG ISSUE DIPLOMATIC VISAS TO GENERAL SECRETARY OF MFA AND TO DEPUTY CHIEF, USA DIVISION, MINISTER KG FEDOSEYEV AS ILLUSTRATIVE OF PROBLEM. CONSOFF AGREED TO INFORM WASHINGTON OF SOVIET VIEWS BUT POINTED OUT THAT JUST AS SOVGOV VIEWS ISSUANCE PASSPORTS AS PURELY INTERNAL MATTER, USG VIEWS VISA ISSUANCE IN SIMILAR LIGHT. ISSUANCE OF US DIPLOMATIC VISA DEPENDS ON TWO FACTORS: 1) PASSPORT MUST BE DIPLOMATIC AND 2) PURPOSE OF VISIT MUST BE ACCORD WITH CERTAIN CRITERIA. FOR EXAMPLE, DEPARTMENT DOES NOT AUTHORIZED ISSUANCE OF "A" VISAS FOR PERSONS COMING TO THE US ON COMMERCIAL BUSINESS OR TOURIST VISAS EVEN THOUGH THEY ARE BEARERS OF DIPLOMATIC PASSPORTS. REZNICHENKO POINTED OUT THAT EMBASSY HAS ISSUED NON-DIPLOMATIC VISAS TO CHAIRMAN OF USSR STATE COMMITTEES WHO ARE EQUIVALENT IN RANK TO USSR MINISTER WHO NOW RECEIVE DIPLOMATIC VISAS. HE FURTHER SUGGESTED THAT DEPUTIES TO SUPREM SOVIETS AND REPUBLIC SOVIETS AS WELL AS ALL OTHER DIPLOMATIC LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PASSPORT HOLDERS SHOULD BE ISSUED DIPLOMATIC VISAS. CONSOFFS AGREED TRANSMIT REQUEST DESPITE PROBLEM POINTED OUT ABOVE.

5. FINAL ISSUE RAISED BY SOVIET SIDE WAS PROBLEM ENCOUNTERED BY SOVIET DIPLOMATIC COURIER WHO MUST SUBMIT TO X-RAY IN SAN FRANCISCO, ALTHOUGH NO SUCH REQUIREMENT IS IMPOSED IN NEW YORK AND WASHINGTON. HE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT, EVEN IN SAN FRANCISCO, THERE WAS NO CHECKING

OF DIPLOMATIC POUCH, ONLY OF COURIERS. CONSOFFS STATED THAT X-RAY CHECK WAS ANTI-TERRORIST MEASURE WHICH, ACCORDING TO US CIVIL AVIATION LAWS, SHOULD BE CARRIED OUT IN WASHINGTON AS WELL AS SAN FRANCISCO. SOVIET SIDE REPLIED THAT IT DID NOT THINK DIPLOMATIC COURIERS SHOULD BE TREATED AS POTENTIAL TERRORISTS AND REQUESTED CONSOFFS TRANSMIT REQUEST THAT THEIR COURIERS NOT BE REQUIRED UNDERGO CHECKS. COUNSELOR AGREED TRANSMIT REQUEST, BUT POINTED OUT DIFFICULTIES USG WOULD HAVE IN ADMINISTERING ANTI-TERRORIST MEASURES UNLESS THEY ARE UNIFORMLY ENFORCED WITHOUT DISCRIMINATORY EXCEPTION. FOR EXAMPLE, CERTAIN ARAB COUNTRIES ARE KNOWN TO USE THEIR DIPLOMATIC COURIERS FOR SUCH PURPOSES BUT WOULD BE QUICK TO COMPLAIN OF DISCRIMINATION IF THEIR COURIERS WERE SINGLED OUT FOR X-RAY CHECK.

6. COUNSELOR THEN RAISED PROBLEMS CITED LENINGRAD 1371 RE SOVIET REFUSAL TO PERMIT PLACING UNCLASSIFIED POUCHES IN BAGGAGE CAR ON HELSINKI-LENINGRAD TRAIN RUN AND REFUSAL TO PERMIT US COURIER TRUCKS TO GO TO PLANESIDE AT LENINGRAD AIRPORT. REZNICHENKO AGREED TO CHECK STATING HE THOUGHT BOTH OF THESE MATTERS EASILY RESOLVABLE.

7. BOTH SIDES AGREED MEET AGAIN 10 A.M. AUG 27. US SIDE WILL RAISE ISSUE OF SUBMISSION OF VISA APPLICATIONS TO EMBASSY BY SOVIET MFA. SOVIETS WILL TAKE UP ISSUANCE OF VISAS TO AMTORG PERSONNEL IN US AND TAXATION.

COMMENT: SOVIET SIDE WAS OBVIOUSLY PERTURBED AT US ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AT AUG 25 SESSION, APPARENTLY BECAUSE OF SENSITIVITY TO THEIR POLICE STATE IMPLICATIONS. THIS WAS FIRST WORKING SESSION FOR EXAMPLE, IN WHICH ALL SEVEN SOVIET MEMBERS OF CEREMONIAL OPENING DELEGATION PARTICIPATED. REZNICHENKO SELF-CONSCIOUSLY NOTED THAT SEVEN-MEMBER SOVIET DELEGATION WHICH FACED TWO-MEMBER US DELEGATION DID NOT CONSTITUTE ADVANTAGE TO THE FORMER SINCE THIS WAS NOT A HOCKEY GAME. ALSO, DURING HIS DISCUSSION OF THESE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TWO US AGENDA ITEMS, REZNICHENKO FOR FIRST TIME SINCE CONSULAR TALKS, RAISED HIS VOICE IN HEATED HOSTILITY.  
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## Message Attributes

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